X-MEN

15¢ CC

66 MAR

# THE STRANGEST TEENS OF ALL!

APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY

# X-MEN

TM

MARVEL COMICS GROUP

THE BLUE CHIP LUCKY BUCK

GOLDEN NUGGET

# THE HULK LASHES OUT!

WWW.MARVEL.COM ©2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved.

X-MEN THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!™

# The MUTANTS and the MONSTER

PROFESSOR X LIVES!! BUT THE STRAIN OF HIS HARD-WON VICTORY OVER THE STAR-SPAWNED Z'NOX*--THE MENTAL AGONY OF LINKING UP THE MINDS OF HALF A PLANET--HAVE TAKEN A MOST DREADFUL TOLL--!

IF ONLY WE KNEW --WILL HE EVER EMERGE FROM HIS COMATOSE STATE, OR--?

DON'T, HANK! DON'T EVEN SAY IT!

HE MUST RECOVER-- HE MUST!!

IT WOULD BE THE GRIMMEST IRONY OF ALL, IF HE HAD RETURNED TO US AFTER SO MANY LONG MONTHS--

ONLY TO HAVE HIS GREATEST TRIUMPH ALSO BECOME--HIS FINAL ONE--!

STAN LEE • EDITOR
ROY THOMAS • WRITER
SAL BUSCEMA • ARTIST

SAM GRAINGER, EMBELLISHER
ARTIE SIMEK, LETTERER

126

*AS RECOUNTED LAST ISSUE! --STAN.

© 2012 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.

DON'T *CRY*, LORNA! YOU KNOW HE WOULDN'T *WANT* YOU TO!

I...I CAN'T *HELP* IT, ALEX!

EVEN THOUGH I'VE KNOWN HIM ONLY A FEW DAYS, IT SEEMS LIKE... A *LIFETIME!*

WE MUSTN'T GIVE UP *HOPE*, LORNA --NOT WHILE A SINGLE *BREATH* IS STILL--

*SLIK!*

*ICEMAN!* WHAT IN--??

WHILE YOU'RE MAKIN' WITH THE *SOULFUL SOUNDS*, SUMMERS--

*KEEP YOUR PAWS OFF MY GIRL!*

*YOUR* GIRL? YOU EVER TRY ASKING *HER* ABOUT THAT?

BESIDES, I WAS JUST TRYING TO *COMFORT* HER!

I'LL COMFORT *YOU*--WITH A FACEFUL OF *SNOW*, YOU--!

*STOP IT-- BOTH OF YOU!*

THIS IS *NO* TIME TO START FIGHTING AMONGST *OURSELVES!*

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A PAIR OF HIGH-SCHOOL *ROMEOS!*

*ZLRAP!*

YOUR SENTIMENTS GO *DOUBLE* FOR *ME*, CYCLOPS!

IT'S *PROFESSOR XAVIER* WE SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT--

*NOT* WHO TAKES WHOM TO THE NEXT *SOCK HOP!*

OKAY, GREENILOCKS...YOU MADE YOUR POINT!

FOR A HUMAN POPSICLE, I GUESS I AM KIND'A HOT-TEMPERED!

SORRY, MAN! GUESS THERE'S TOO MUCH ON MY MIND!

FORGET IT, DRAKE! I'M NOT EXACTLY MR. COOL MYSELF!

SCOTT! SOMETHING THAT BOBBY SAID--!

THE PROFESSOR'S MIND-PROBE--!!

I READ YOU, MR. McCOY!

SOON, WITH THE APPLICATION OF THE BEAST'S UNDERRATED MUSCLE...

THIS MIND-PROBE FROM THE CELLAR-LAB MIGHT BE JUST WHAT THE PHYSICIAN PRESCRIBED!

RIGHT, HANK!

THE PROF COMPLETED IT RIGHT BEFORE HE VANISHED--

--BASING IT ON PUBLISHED ARTICLES BY DR. HENRY PYM!*

*JUST OUR SNEAKY WAY OF LETTING YOU KNOW THAT THIS IS A MORE SOPHISTICATED VERSION OF THE MIND-PROBE APPARATUS SEEN IN AVENGERS #68! --STAN.

THAT'S ONE AVENGER WHO GENERALLY KNOWS HIS OATMEAL COOKIES, SCOTT!

WELL, LET'S SEE IF DR. PYM'S BATTING-AVERAGE IS STILL BEYOND REPROACH!

EASY, HANK! THAT THING IS ONLY DESIGNED TO SKIM THE SURFACE OF A MAN'S MIND!

IF YOU TRY TO DIG TOO DEEP, WE DON'T KNOW WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN--!

ZZZZZZZZ

I KNOW, DEPUTY LEADER!

BUT STILL, I HAVE THIS INEXPLICABLE PREMONITION--

--THAT THE PROFESSOR HIMSELF KNOWS HOW WE COULD CURE HIM--IF ONLY WE COULD REACH HIM SOMEHOW--!

WAIT A MINUTE! LOOK!

HIS LIPS-- THEY'RE MOVING!

HE'S--TRYING TO SAY SOMETHING--!

THE... HULK....!

MUST GET HIM... BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...!

THE HULK--!!

YOU SWITCHED OFF THAT GADGET JUST IN TIME, BEAST!

A FEW MOMENTS MORE, AND THE STRAIN MIGHT HAVE KILLED PROFESSOR XAVIER!

BEYOND A DOUBT, MR. SUMMERS!

AND YET--HIS SUBCONSCIOUS SEEMS OBSESSED BY THE HULK--A GREEN-SKINNED GARGOYLE HE NEVER EVEN ENCOUNTERED!

WHY?

HE'S STILL SINKING, SLOWLY BUT SURELY!

IT-IT DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE! HE LOVED US SO MUCH--TAUGHT US SO MUCH--!

JEAN-- THAT'S IT!!

HE ONCE TRANSFERRED SOME OF HIS MENTAL POWERS TO YOU!

CAN YOU USE THAT POWER--TO PROBE HIS MIND MORE SAFELY?

I DON'T KNOW, SCOTT!

BUT--I'LL TRY!

FOR HIS SAKE-- FOR ALL OUR SAKES--I'VE GOT TO TRY!!

NEXT, WITH A DESPERATE SURGE OF **MENTAL EFFORT**-- WHICH THROBS LIKE A LIVING BUT **INVISIBLE** THING BETWEEN THE CHAMBER'S FOUR WALLS--

CAN YOU **HEAR** ME, PROFESSOR? THIS IS **JEAN GREY**--THE ONE YOU NAMED **MARVEL GIRL!**

WE WANT TO **HELP** YOU--BRING YOU **BACK** TO US--IF YOU'LL JUST SHOW US THE **WAY!**

IF YOU **HEAR** ME, GIVE ME A **SIGN**-- SOME SLIGHTEST **SIGN**--!

IT'S...NO USE, SCOTT!

THERE'S **NO** IMAGE IN THE PART OF HIS MIND THAT I CAN REACH--EXCEPT THE LUMBERING, DEADLY **HULK!!**

THEN **HE** MUST HAVE SOME CONNECTION WITH THE PROFESSOR'S **CONDITION!** BUT **WHAT**--?

**HOLD IT!** IT'S WELL KNOWN THAT THE HULK IS ALSO **BRUCE BANNER**--A FAMOUS **PHYSICIST**--!

**AHHH!** YOU SURMISE IT MAY BE **BANNER** WHO SOMEHOW HOLDS THE KEY-- AND **NOT** THE HULK AT **ALL!**

BY GEORGE AND OTHER DE-FROCKED SAINTS--I THINK YOU'VE **GOT** IT!

AND **WE'VE** GOT TO DO WHAT HE **TOLD** US TO DO-- **GET THE HULK!**

ALEX--THE PROFESSOR HAS MANY **ENEMIES**--!

SAY NO **MORE,** BROTHER MINE!

I'LL GUARD HIM WITH MY **LIFE** TILL YOU GET BACK!

I'LL... STAY HERE **WITH** YOU, ALEX...!

AND ICEMAN MAKES THREE, LADY!

MAYBE I'M MORE OF A GREEN-EYED MONSTER THAN THE HULK--

BUT I ALSO KNOW THAT ABSENCE MAKES THE HEART GROW FONDER-- OF SOMEBODY ELSE!

MOMENTS LATER, FROM AN UNASSUMING COTTAGE BEHIND THE WESTCHESTER COUNTY MANSION...

DON'T FORGET THAT WARREN IS ON GUARD DUTY, SCOTT!

WE MAY NEED HIS HELP BEFORE THIS DAY IS OVER!

HE'S NOT AN EASY LAD TO FORGET, JEAN--

--OR TO OVERLOOK!

HEY!

OPEN UP THE PORT HATCH, PEOPLE!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP TO--BUT THE HIGH-FLYIN' ANGEL WANTS A PIECE OF THE ACTION!

ANY ACTION!

A FEW ANXIOUS HOURS AND MANY MILES LATER...

THAT NEWSCAST WE MONITORED SAID HE WAS DOWN THERE... IN LAS VEGAS!

THEN I'LL MEET YOU BELOW, LITTLE BUDDIES-- AND BRING PLENTY OF QUARTERS!*

LOOK! I'M PICKING UP A TV REPORT ON THE HULK!

WATCH IT, ANGEL! HE LOOKS LOADED FOR BEAR--!

SAVE IT, SCOTTIE... OUR VENTURE-SOME VULTURE IS OUT OF EARSHOT!

*JUST FOR THE RECORD: THE SILVER-WINGED MR. WORTHINGTON FLEW MOST OF THE WAY VIA SENTINEL-SHIP, NOT UNDER HIS OWN POWER! --SMILEY.

I DON'T IMAGINE OL' JADE-JAWS WILL BE HARD TO FIND!

WELL, SPEAK OF THE DEVIL--!

OUT OF MY PATH, PUNY HUMANS!

WHERE THE HULK WALKS ...HE WALKS ALONE!

MISTER, I WOULDN'T HAVE IT ANY OTHER WAY!

LIKE WOW! EVEN FROM THE PICTURES I'VE SEEN, I NEVER THOUGHT HE WOULD LOOK SO LARGE... SO POWERFUL!

I MIGHT AS WELL DIVE-BOMB A DINOSAUR!

BETTER KEEP AIRBORNE, TILL SCOTTY AND THE OTHERS TOUCH DOWN!

ONE OF THE MASKED ONES--WHO ALWAYS HOUND THE HULK!

WELL, HULK HAS HANDLED OTHER MASKED ONES BEFORE--

LIKE THIS!!

KABOOM!

ARRAHHH!

THE ANGEL'S *DOWN*--AND *STUNNED!*

THOSE *SONIC WAVES* GOT TO HIM BUT *GOOD!*

AND SO WILL THAT GREEN-SKINNED *GROTESQUERIE...*

IF THE EVER-BOUNDING *BEAST* DOESN'T TAKE A HAND!

--OR SHOULD I SAY, "*TAKE A FOOT!*"

*THERE!* THAT SHOULD SUFFICE TO--

*GOOD LORD!*

THE BEHEMOTH ISN'T EVEN *FAZED!* HE--

*WHOOOF!*

YOU MASKED ONES *TALK* TOO MUCH!

*FWOOM!*

HULK DOESN'T *TALK*-- HE *ACTS!!*

*WAIT,* HULK! THERE'S NO REASON FOR US TO *FIGHT!*

WE JUST WANT TO ASK YOU A FEW *QUESTIONS*--!

*MORE* WORDS! HULK IS *SICK* OF WORDS!

MEN ALWAYS USE WORDS TO *TRICK* HULK--TRY TO PUT HIM IN *CHAINS!*

BUT HULK WILL *NEVER* LET HIMSELF BE CHAINED *AGAIN!*

*NEVER!!*

*SKRTCH!*

*LOOK OUT, JEANIE!*

HE RIPPED UP THAT *LAMPPOST* LIKE A STRAND OF *SPAGHETTI!*

I DIDN'T *WANT* TO DO THIS, HULK--

BUT I'VE *GOT* TO!

WE'VE GOT *NOTHING* THAT'LL STOP YOU--EXCEPT THE FULL POWER OF MY *OPTIC BLASTS!*

*WILL* THEY STOP HULK, LITTLE MAN?

*WILL* THEY?

*SLRRAT!*

IT--*CAN'T* BE!

HE'S STILL *COMING*--AS IF HE WERE MERELY *WADING THRU WATER!*

I'M *SLOWING HIM DOWN* --BUT THAT'S *ALL!*

MAYBE IT'LL BE *ENOUGH,* SCOTT--

--IF I CAN FOCUS ALL MY *MENTAL POWER* ON HIM!!



Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

I-I'M GIVING HIM ALL I'VE *GOT*, CYKE--BUT HE'S STILL *COMING!*

FEEL *FUNNY*-- IN HEAD--!

GETTING CLOSER-- *CLOSER*--!

*JEAN!* YOU'RE GETTING *TO* HIM!

KEEP APPLYING *MORE* MENTAL PRESSURE, GIRL! *MORE*--*MORE!*

YOU *GOT* HIM!

YOU--YOU MEAN *WE* GOT HIM, SCOTT!

BUT, IF HE HAD HELD OUT--A SPLIT SECOND *LONGER*--!

ALL THAT MATTERS, JEAN, IS THAT HE'S *DOWN!*

AND--*LOOK!* HE'S *CHANGING* --SHRINKING WITH EVERY SECOND!

HE'S BECOMING *BRUCE BANNER* AGAIN--THE MAN WE HAD TO *FIND!*

*BANNER?* YES--THANK GOD, I *AM* BANNER AGAIN!

BUT, FOR HOW LONG-- *HOW LONG?*

*LISTEN*, BANNER-- WE'RE THE MUTANT *X-MEN!*

THERE ARE *QUESTIONS*-- QUESTIONS WE MUST *ASK* YOU--!

DR. BANNER-- WHAT DO YOU KNOW OF A MAN NAMED *CHARLES XAVIER?*

*XAVIER?* I-I DON'T KNOW--DON'T REMEMBER EVER HEARING THE NAME--BEFORE NOW!

PLEASE--MUST *REST*-- SO *TIRED*--!

*NO!* WE'VE COME SO *FAR*--AND THERE'S SO LITTLE *TIME!!*

'CAUSE, FROM WHERE *WE* STAND--

EVEN LESS THAN YOU *CONJECTURE*, CYCLOPS!



Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

--IT LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT *COMPANY!*

*ALL RIGHT,* YOU COSTUMED CLOWNS-- I DON'T KNOW WHAT *YOU'RE* DOING HERE--

BUT *STAND ASIDE,* AND I WON'T TAKE YOU IN FOR QUESTIONING!

ALL WE WANT IS THE *HULK*--AND BY THUNDER WE'RE *TAKING* HIM!

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THOSE CRUMMY *MUTIES,* MAJOR TALBOT!

IF THEY MAKE A *MOVE* TO HELP BANNER ESCAPE, THEY'RE *DEAD MEN!*

MAJOR... YOU DON'T *UNDERSTAND!* WE'RE NOT HERE TO *INTERFERE!*

BUT, BEFORE YOU TAKE HIM INTO CUSTODY, WE'VE GOT TO GET A FEW *ANSWERS* FROM DR. BANNER!

THE LIFE OF A *MAN* DEPENDS ON THOSE ANSWERS!

--A MAN NAMED *CHARLES XAVIER!*

XAVIER... XAVIER...

*WAIT!* NOW I *REMEMBER* THAT NAME!

A BRILLIANT *SCIENTIST*--WE EXCHANGED CORRESPONDENCE YEARS AGO, ON THE *GAMMA-RAY* TREATMENT OF *MENTAL EXHAUSTION!*

I WORKED OUT A *DEVICE* --BASED ON OUR MUTUAL THEORIES!

IT'S STILL THERE--IN ONE OF MY SECRET *LABS!*

THAT'S *IT!* THE *TIE-IN!*

*TAKE* US TO IT, DOCTOR-- OR CHARLES XAVIER WILL *DIE!!*

NOT SO FAST, MUTANT!

YOU'RE *FORGETTING* THE LITTLE FACT THAT BANNER IS *MY* PRISONER --NOT *YOURS!*

MAYBE YOU CAN TALK TO HIM *AFTER* HE'S BEEN INTERROGATED BY THE TOP BRASS--BUT NOT *BEFORE!*

TAKE HIM, MEN!

NO--*WAIT,* TALBOT-- YOU *MUST!*

YOU CAN'T ALLOW A BRILLIANT MAN TO *PERISH*-- JUST BECAUSE-- BECAUSE--

MY *HEAD*-- STARTING TO *THROB*-- LIKE SO MANY *OTHER* TIMES--!

*NO!* DEAR LORD-- NOT *NOW!*

IF I *CHANGE* NOW-- XAVIER WILL *DIE!*

AND WHY *SHOULDN'T* HE DIE?

WHAT DOES HE *MATTER?*

WHAT DOES *ANYTHING* MATTER--

--TO THE *HULK!!*

THAT EGGHEAD'S BECOME THE *HULK* AGAIN!

AND--HE'S HEADIN' STRAIGHT FOR *US!*

DON'T *PANIC,* MAN!

KEEP THIS TANK *MOVING!* MAYBE WE CAN *RUN 'IM DOWN!*

YES, PUNY HUMANS--

RUN HULK *DOWN*--

--IF YOU *CAN!*

NOW, HULK IS *LEAVING*--TO FIND SOME-WHERE HE CAN BE *ALONE!*

IF YOU *FOLLOW*-- YOU GET WHAT *TANK* GOT!

DO YOU *HEAR??*

HE'S *GONE*--AND WITH HIM, MAYBE OUR ONE CHANCE TO SAVE *PROFESSOR X.!*

BUT WE *CAN'T* GIVE UP NOW.! WE'VE *GOT* TO KEEP ON HIS TRAIL.!

THEN I VOTE WE DO IT BEFORE THOSE *DOGFACES* TURN AROUND, CYKE.!

*THOOM!*

*AGREED!* OTHERWISE, THEY'RE LIABLE TO TRAIN THEIR GUNS ON FOUR LESS *BULLETPROOF* TARGETS.!

AND INDEED, AS THE LAST *ECHOES* OF STACCATO GUNFIRE CEASE...

*ALL RIGHT,* X-MEN... NOW LET'S HEAR JUST HOW *YOU* FIT INTO--

*THUNDER!* THEY'RE *GONE!*

THEN THEY *WERE* IN CAHOOTS WITH THAT MONSTER-- JUST LIKE WE *THOUGHT!*

*FROOOSH!*

*THAT,* SOLDIER, IS SOMETHING WE MAY NEVER *KNOW!*

GATHER UP YOUR *MARBLES*... AND LET'S GET BACK TO THE *BASE!*

...*THERE'S* OUR PISTACHIO-COLORED PLAYMATE *NOW!*

HOW'D YOU MANAGE TO KEEP HIM IN *SIGHT,* SCOTTY.?

I *DIDN'T,* ANGEL.! WE JUST *LUCKED OUT!*

IF HE HAD *THOOMED OFF* ONE MORE TIME WHEN HE LANDED, WE'D HAVE BEEN *OUT* OF IT.!



Read more FREE comics on ReadComicOnline

HE *KNOWS* WE'RE AFTER HIM--AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S DECIDED TO MAKE A STAND BY THAT *CLIFF!*

TAKE 'ER *DOWN,* HANK!

WILL *DO,* LAD!

WE WOULDN'T WANT TO *DISAPPOINT* OUR HALCYON HOST!

*BUT,* BY THE TIME THE X-MEN'S CRAFT HAS *LANDED...*

HE'S DECIDED TO PLAY *KING OF THE HILL!*

WELL, IF HE WANTS TO *THROW* THAT THING--I'LL GIVE HIM A *MOVING* TARGET!

*ANGEL--WAIT!*

*UH OH!* LOOKS LIKE OL' GREENSKIN PREFERS *SITTIN' DUCKS* INSTEAD!

HULK *TOLD* YOU NOT TO FOLLOW HIM!

HE'S *IGNORING* ME--TOSSING THAT BOULDER AT THE *OTHERS!*

*NOW--* YOU'LL FIND OUT HULK *MEANS* WHAT HE SAYS!

*HEADS UP, PEOPLE!!*

*SIZZAP!*

*NO SWEAT, FLYBOY! I'M ALL EYES!*

I'LL DEFLECT ANY STRAY *ROCK FRAGMENTS, SCOTT--!*

--WHILE THE BRAIN-STRAINING *BEAST* PURSUES A LITTLE SUB-PLAN ALL HIS *OWN!*

I SCRAMBLED UP THIS CLIFFSIDE IN THE BEST TRADITIONS OF *JUSTICE DOUGLAS!*

AND *NOW*--

GOT TO CATCH HIM *OFF BALANCE*--WHILE HE'S GESTICULATING *MENACINGLY* OVER THE EDGE OF THE CLIFF!

*WHAT*--??

A *MASTER STROKE*, IF I MUST SAY SO MYSELF!

AND APPARENTLY I *MUST*--LACKING ANY COGENT COMMENT BY OL' *INCREDIBLE* HERE!

HE CAN MERELY *JUMP*--NOT *FLY*--SO THERE'S NO WAY TO *CHECK* HIS FALL!

OH YES... AND BEFORE I FORGET...

*TIM-BERRRR!*

AND, IF IT RENDERS HIM *UNCONSCIOUS*--HE MAY REVERT TO OUR FAVORITE *PHYSICIST!*

*BUT*, EVEN AS HANK McCOY SHOUTS--FIVE HUNDRED POUNDS OF STEEL-MUSCLED *MASS* STRIKE THE DESERT FLOOR BELOW--!

*KROOM*

THE HULK HIT HARDER THAN BEAST *CALCULATED!*

HE'S BEING *BURIED* --BY A ROCKY *AVALANCHE!*

WH-WHAT HAVE I *DONE?*

IF HE'S CHANGED TO BANNER *NOW*-- HE'LL BE CRUSHED TO A *PULP!*

AND I'LL BE JUST WHAT THEY ALWAYS *CLAIMED* ALL MUTANTS ARE-- A *MURDERER!!*

*EASY* UP THERE, McCOY!

WE DON'T KNOW FOR SURE THAT HULK--OR *BANNER*-- *IS* DEAD!

IN FACT--*LOOK!*

THOSE ROCKS ARE SHAKING-- *TREMBLING,* AS IF--

--*THE HULK IS ALIVE!!*

*THRAK!*

DON'T YOU KNOW THAT *NOTHING* CAN KILL THE HULK?

*NOTHING!!!*

BUT *HULK* CAN KILL-- *ANYONE!*

GET *BACK,* SCOTT! I--

WHAT ARE YOU *STARING* AT SO WILD-EYED?

*LOOK,* GIRL-- *BEHIND* THE HULK!

THAT LANDSLIDE UNCOVERED SOME SECRET *LAB,* AND--

IT'S *GOT* TO BE-- *BRUCE BANNER'S!!*

*BANNER!* HOW HULK *HATES* THAT NAME!

SAY IT *AGAIN*-- AND HULK WILL *SMASH* YOU ALL!

I WONDER--IF *THAT* LAB IS THE ONE--

--WHERE BANNER WORKED OUT THAT *GAMMA-RAY* GIZMO!

I'LL *COVER* YOU, WARREN--

--SO YOU CAN GET INSIDE TO *LOOK* FOR BANNER'S DEVICE!

*BANNER! BANNER! BANNER!*

HULK WILL *MAKE* YOU STOP SAYING THAT NAME--

IF HE HAS TO PULL UP WHOLE *DESERT FLOOR!*

*SKRTTCH!*

BUT, CYCLOPS' *EYES* ARE QUICKER THAN THE HULK'S *HAND*--

*:UNNHHH!:*

*PKTOW!*

HE CAN'T *ATTACK*-- WITHOUT A PLACE TO *STAND!*

NOW *MOVE IT,* ANGEL!

MAYBE JEANIE CAN FOCUS HER *MENTAL* POWER ON HIM AGAIN, AND--

*NO!*

YOU *WON'T* PUT HULK TO SLEEP AGAIN!

YOU *WON'T!*

*THRUMM!*

*SCOTT!* THE GROUND'S OPENING UP-- RIGHT UNDER OUR *FEET*--!

*NO!* THIS CAN'T HAPPEN NOW--NOT *NOW!*

IT'LL DESTROY THE LAB-- *EVERY-THING!*

MOST COMMEND-ABLE, MASTER SUMMERS!

I SHOULD HOPE, SCOTTY--

TO THINK ONLY OF OTHERS, IN A MOMENT OF IMPENDING CATASTROPHE!

IT'S-- HANK!

--THAT YOU'D NOT CONFUSE MY VOCABULARY WITH THAT OF OUR AVOCADO ANTAGONIST!

NOW, IF ONLY ANGEL WOULD SHAKE A TAIL-FEATHER...!

HERE HE COMES!

UP HERE, X-MAN!

I THINK I'VE GOT WHAT WE WERE LOOKING FOR, GROUPIES!

NOW, IF ONLY THE HULK DOESN'T LEAP AFTER US!

NOT TO WORRY, FELLA....!

ALL THAT OUR GREEN-SKINNED GARBO WANTS-- IS TO BE LEFT ALONE!

THEY'RE GONE-- AT LAST!

NOW, MAYBE HULK CAN FIND-- PEACE!

I WAS JUST THINKING, SCOTT, WHAT AN AMAZING COINCIDENCE IT WAS--

--THE HULK LEADING US RIGHT TO THE PLACE WE WANTED TO GO!

YOU DON'T REALLY THINK IT WAS A COINCIDENCE, ANY MORE THAN I DO, LADY!

SOMEWHERE INSIDE THAT BRUTE, THE BRAIN OF BRUCE BANNER KNEW THAT A MAN'S LIFE WAS AT STAKE--

AND IT LED US THERE -- IN SPITE OF THE HULK!

TENSE HOURS AFTERWARD, IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY...

SCOTT--THAT LOOK IN YOUR EYES!

THEN--YOU'VE GOT WHAT YOU SET OUT TO FIND--!?

WE THINK SO--BUT WE CAN'T BE SURE--

--UNTIL WE'VE TESTED IT--ON PROFESSOR XAVIER--!

MOMENTS LATER, A COLD METAL BUTTON IS PRESSED...

AND A MINIATURIZED DEVICE, PERHAPS UNDERSTOOD BY ONLY TWO MEN ON ALL THE EARTH, FEEDS GAMMA-RAY IMPULSES TO A DORMANT BRAIN!

THEN, ITS DULL, INSISTENT HUMMING CEASES...

...AND NOTHING IS HEARD BUT THE MURMUR OF SEVEN WHISPERED PRAYERS...!

X-MEN--LOOK! HIS EYES ARE OPENING!

BUT, ARE THEY OPENING WITH LIFE--OR THE VACANT STARE OF DEATH?

QUIET, BOTH OF YOU! HE--HE'S TRYING TO SPEAK...!

YOU HAVE... DONE WELL, MY X-MEN!

YOU DECIPHERED... THE ONLY CLUE ...I COULD SUMMON POWER TO GIVE YOU...!

HE'S GOING TO LIVE!!

THANK THE LORD!

PERHAPS THERE'S JUSTICE LEFT IN THIS RAGTAG WORLD, AFTER ALL!

I'LL...BE ON MY FEET IN NO TIME...I PROMISE YOU!

THERE ARE WRONGS TO BE RIGHTED...A WORLD TO BE SAVED FROM EVIL MUTANTS... AND FROM ITSELF...!

AND WE'LL SAVE IT, SIR...WITH YOUR HELP!

AMEN!

I HOPE SO, SCOTT... BECAUSE IT'S A GOOD WORLD, BASICALLY... ONE WELL WORTH THE SAVING...

...AS LONG AS THERE ARE PEOPLE IN IT LIKE...THE X-MEN!

AND THEY FOUGHT HAPPILY EVER AFTER....??